

August 15, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm pleased to comment on this merger on behalf of my organization, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA). The outcome of this merger relative to investment in access to broadband service in rural Ohio would be immensely positive. It would help us in our efforts to improve quality of life and economic growth in our region.

OMEGA is a collaborative group that serves as a facilitator between state, local, and federal governments and entities to provide opportunities for economic and community development. We work toward the goals of creating a more prosperous region through tools such as networking and education, and we provide assistance with economic development, grant assistance, planning, and research as well as promote cooperative arrangements and relationships among members and various agencies. Our service area of ten rural counties includes many small communities with outlying areas where businesses and residents sometimes have difficulty gaining any Internet access, much less high-speed wireless service.

That's a problem because advanced communications technologies bring access to opportunities, including opportunities for economic growth and community development, which are incredibly vital. Every community, individual, school, and business ought to have equal access to the resources and possibilities that high-speed wireless broadband brings. Opportunities for better health care, higher education and distance learning, and professional advancement and training can help individuals and families change their lives and improve economic well-being. Fortunately, the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile would result in an expanded advanced network infrastructure and access to ultra-fast wireless broadband throughout most of

Ohio. Of particular interest to us is that the merger brings with it a commitment by AT&T to expand mobile broadband to many of our rural areas.

The outcome of this merger would help residents of rural areas and small communities throughout Ohio, and expanded access to advanced communications technologies would help OMEGA in our efforts to encourage growth and community development. I'm optimistic about this merger and especially optimistic about the possibilities it will bring. I hope you will support it, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg L. DiDonato

Executive Director

Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA)

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell Commissioner Mignon Clyburn